

area may be varied, the operculum always retains the circular form."

I think the irregularity may be easily explained, when we consider that the animal has to reproduce the operculum in the most rapid manner to replace the lost part, and therefore commencing from the centre, it forms only one or one and a half broad whorl, instead of the large number which it gradually deposited. As it has to adapt the operculum to the increased size of the mouth of the shell and of the foot on which it is formed, and the end of the foot of the animal and the circular mouth of the shell not being altered by the abstraction of the operculum, the reproduced operculum is naturally of the form of the previous normally formed one.

XLI.—*Note on Reticularia immersa and Halia prætenuis.*

By the Rev. THOMAS HINCKS, B.A.

IN the 'Annals' for February 1855 I described a supposed Polyzoön under the name of *Halia prætenuis*. I had never met with the species living, and merely inferred from the character of the cell, &c. that it must be ranked as a Polyzoön, and not as a Hydroid. Mr. Alder, having recently made a careful examination of the common parasite of *Sertularia abietina* and other zoophytes, which passes as the *Reticularia immersa* of Professor Wyville Thomson, has informed me that he can detect no difference between this species and the *Halia*, and that he believes them to be identical. I have now no doubt that his opinion is correct, and that the genus *Halia* was founded on specimens of the zoophyte which Prof. Thomson has described as *Reticularia immersa*. In characterizing this species, however, he has fallen into a mistake as to the form of the cell, and his figure (*vide* Annals, Ser. 2. vol. xi. pl. 16) is not an accurate representation of the reality. Deriving my knowledge of *Reticularia*, as I did, from his description and figure, there was nothing to lead me to suspect its identity with the form which I had obtained on mussel-shells from the Dogger Bank, and which I published as *Halia prætenuis*. I could have no doubt that the zoophyte of his paper was not the species which I had before me when I constituted the new genus.

The cause of this mistake on the part of so able a naturalist may perhaps be found in the difficulty which attaches to the examination of *Reticularia* in its ordinary state,—the cells being densely packed together and forming a confused mass, amidst which it is no easy matter to trace the form. When the species creeps over shell (as was the case in my specimens) the character

is greatly altered,—the cells are sparingly distributed along the fibre, and the difficulty vanishes. Both Prof. Thomson and myself overlooked the fact, that the production, which we respectively designated as *Reticularia* and *Halia*, had been previously described by Mr. Hassall in the Transactions of the Microscopical Society (vol. iii. p. 163) under the name of *Campanularia serpens*. Mr. Hassall's description may not perhaps be as full and precise as might be desired, but it is sufficient for the identification of the species. There is no doubt that it has no claim to a place in the genus *Campanularia*, and that Prof. Thomson was right in constituting a new genus for its reception. The name *Reticularia*, therefore, must be retained, but Mr. Hassall's specific designation is entitled to precedence.

The characterization may be revised as follows :—

Order HYDROIDA.

Fam. ———*.

Genus RETICULARIA.

Polypidom “a parasitical, investing network of horny tubes, immersed in a horny crust;” *cells* decumbent, adherent, irregularly disposed along the fibre, to which they are attached at the base. “*Polype* of a greenish colour, with numerous smooth, solid tentacula; very minute.”

Reticularia serpens.

Campanularia serpens, Hassall, Microscop. Transact. vol. for 1852.

Reticularia immersa, W. Thomson, Annals, vol. xi. for 1853.

Halia prætenuis, Hincks, Annals for Febr. 1855.

Capsularia serpens, Gray, List of Brit. Radiated Animals, p. 151.

Cells elongate, with upturned, terminal, and more or less tubular orifices, inoperculate, and with even rim.

The polypidom is a creeping fibre of great delicacy, which forms an irregular network, corneous and closely adherent; it is invested by a kind of *crust*, which, when the zoophyte is in a recent state, gives it a soft and spongy appearance, but is not apparent when it is dried; the *cells*, which occur sometimes in pairs, one on each side of the fibre, sometimes singly, sometimes in companies, are elongate, attached by the base to the polypidom, adherent, except at the anterior extremity, which bends

* I do not associate *Reticularia* with any of the existing families of *Hydroida*, fully agreeing with Prof. W. Thomson in the opinion that the section of the genus *Campanularia* which embraces *C. syringa*, *dumosa*, *parvula* (and to these may now be added the *C. gracillima* (Alder)), together with the genera *Coppinia* and *Reticularia*, should form a distinct group “intermediate between the Sertularians and the Campanularians.”

upwards, and terminates in a circular aperture; they are commonly laid alongside the fibre, and often appressed to it, but occasionally stand out from it.

There are two very distinct states of this zoophyte. In old specimens, spreading over the stems of *Sertularia*, &c., the cells are massed confusedly together, and the form is with difficulty distinguishable. On shells it presents a much simpler appearance: the cells are sparingly distributed and distinct, and in such specimens I have never been able to detect any trace of a crust.

Hab. Exceedingly common on our coasts, both north and south, on *Sertularia abietina* and other zoophytes; also on mussel-shells from the Dogger Bank, &c.

XLII.—*Contribution to the Conchology of France.*

By J. GWYN JEFFREYS, Esq., F.R.S.

HAVING spent part of this autumn on the coast of Normandy, with my family, I have been requested by some of my scientific friends to publish the result of my researches; but I fear my story will not be much longer than that of the weary knife-grinder. In fact the whole of my work in the North of France was fruitless, as regards the discovery of new or rare species; although perhaps a list of some species taken by me, and which have not been noticed by writers on French Conchology, may be of some use in contributing towards the elucidation of the important problem of geographical distribution.

Etretat (where I was located) is a small sea-bathing place, containing about 1800 inhabitants, and is distant seventeen miles from Havre on the road to Dieppe. It is a delightful retreat, and has hitherto escaped invasion by our countrymen, who, if they knew of the clear sea and atmosphere, the picturesque rock scenery, the *fontaine*, subterranean river, and oyster park, and above all the facility of access from England, would soon crowd and spoil the place. This may be a selfish, but I believe it is a common, sentiment.

The fauna of this coast was, I understand, investigated many years ago by the late Abbé Dicquemare, whose MSS. are now to be seen in the public library of Rouen; and Cuvier is said to have made Fécamp (which lies about ten miles to the north of Etretat) his retreat during the storm of the Great Revolution, and to have commenced there his studies on the Mollusca. M. Bouchard-Chantereaux has published a list of the marine Testacea found in the Pas de Calais; M. Collard des Cherres has also published a list of those found in the Department of